ANDY WALKER

Short wave conditions at the beginning of June were at their worst for many months, and commiserations must go out to the BRI team for keeping the station on-air on their 10th birthday on June 10th. Things started going wrong with a battery being dropped on loading the equipment into the station's site vehicle. On buying a new car battery, Roger Davis found it wasn't charged fully and that there were cobwebs in the acid chambers, never-the-less, BRI came on the air with some good programming despite the poor conditions that day. BRI had more problems on the 24th with a bunch of idiots broadcasting four K/c's away from 6230. The programming can only be described as crap, this proves idiot broadcasters equals crap programming.

Talking of crap on the radio, Spectrum started programming on Monday 25th June. I cannot believe the IBA have jammed out the UKs oldest commercial radio station, to transmit such rubbish. I understand Spectrum could be in financial difficulty already as two major advertisers have pulled out, plus I've been told the second transmitter on 990 KHz never received planning permission. The farce goes on.

The second service from the Ross has been shelved because they wouldn't have enough disel to run another transmitter. I wish I could tell you about Caroline's tender but I can't. But I can say it really sticks two fingers up to Mr Murphy + co. Mum's the word! Talking of Mr (Jim' ll fix it) Murphy, heard about the visit Nigel Harriss received from Jimmy-Roy? He was told he couldn't run Solar Video, and as he had been seen on the Ross by Jim on the raid in August, Nigel was taken down the local cop shop and held for 12 hours, until a solicitor from Richards Butler turned up at the police station and said "Release my client immediately". They did so. Who says I don't know everything??

NOTICE: Sorry for just 8 pages, 50p will be charged only. We're certain it's not our editing, there does seem to be less news around these days. Also ACTIVITY HQ is in a mess, hopefully 8 pages might help organisation.

ACTIVITY

« info »

Free Radio News.....July 1990

Compiled and Produced from: 3 Greenway, Harold Park, Romford, Essex, RM3 OHH.

SHORTWAVE

Times are BST

GB ATLANTA RADIO are now fairly regular on SW with broadcasts and could be heard Sun 24 June on 6280 with a strong signal here in the UK. According to station op Mark Stafford, the new broadcast bill won't be coming in until the New Year so Atlanta's close will not be as early as was first anticipated!

BRITAIN RADIO INT'L celebrated their 10th anniversary on Sun 10 June on 6232 with a slightly different programme line-up as to what was expected and published in last month's issue. One of the changes noted was a programme with WMRs Jack Russell and guests looking through the last 10 years of free radio in general. The "BRI Party" and most other shows went out as expected but unfortunately the"History of BRI" was cut short due to various problems, the transmitter developed a fault in the modulator and there were also problems with the car battery used to give power to the 20 watt tx, in fact op Roger Davis had to go to a garage during the broadcast and get a new one! The broadcast was'nt the success hoped for due to these problems and conditions didn't help either. Slightly better days followed for Sun 24 June when BRI carried out their 4th Sun transmission on 6230, a slight change in frequency due to a new station on 6233 (see later). The "History of BRI" programme was duly repeated and Roger Davis came back to his usual 1030-1200 slot inc the pop charts of June 1968.

RADIO CONFUSION were back with a one hour broadcast Sun 17 June on 6308 between 1000-1100 with Steve Midnight. Plans for the 15 MHz project have been held back due to a few problems but it is still hoped that these broadcasts can go ahead as soon as possible. Expect a night-time broadcast from the station around 0000 late Sat night. The station has 48m crystals for 6290, 6298, 6308, 6316.

RADIO EAST COAST COMMERCIAL could be heard Suns 3 and 24 June on 6290 with the usual programmes hosted by Norman Nelson. No sign of the 11 MHz transmissions, it would appear that these have taken a rest, either by problems or by choice. RECC did announce a while back that they were having problems with the 11 MHz rig. On Sats 9 and 16 June, a test transmission with continuous music and a repeat of an old "DX Programme" could be heard resp. These tests could well be connected to Delta Radio in some way who expect to be back with regular broadcasts.

RADIO 48 made a rare appearance on Sun 3 June on 6240 with a good signal and programmes from Mark Stafford and Ian Scott with his "Mailbag" show. The plans for night-time operation from them seem to have gone quiet just recently although such broadcasts taking place in the near future shouldn't be ruled out altogether.

RADIO FREEDOM INT'L made their regular broadcasts for Suns 3 and 17 June on 6280 and usual 6205 resp. It seems 6280 was used due to once again Orang Utan appearing on 6206 showing little respect for the Scottish station's 1st and 3rd Sun schedule 1000-1200 usually. This in effect caused Radio 48 to move to 6240 (from usual 6240) which further complicates the issue!

FREESOUND RADIO have taken the bold step recently to . transmits on Sats around the midday period which has become quite inactive recently overall. Freesound can be heard 2nd Sats on 6199 approx 1130-1345, heard Sat 9 June. The last Sun broadcast went out 23 June and general line-up would seem to be: 1100 Mark King (Rock), 1215 Steve West (Radio items) and 1300 Richard Grahamme (Oldies). Orion appear to have some influence, listen to Mark King's show to see why, not to mention new Live Wire Radio (later).

RADIO GALAXY are a new English station who began transmitting on Sun 24 June on 6233, which caused some problems for BRI who had to move to 6230. The station were giving out an address in Chelmsford, Essex we're told together with a telephone number. Obviously first-timers since the modulation was too low and no-one seems to know much about them although there was an FM station in Chelmsford going under the same name a while back, so perhaps the answer is there somewhere. Perhaps the strangest thing about this station is that they were noted all day long, from early morning until late at night!

RADIO GEMINI made one of their rare broadcasts on Sun 17 June on 6220 with a clear signal between 1100-1200 with the programmes that are highly regarded by some listeners it seems, especially RECCs DX compiler Neal West! It's a shame the station op didn't answer our request about a year back (inc SAE) for a feature but it's fair to say "normal" letters will get a reply.

LIVE WIRE RADIO is the station project DX20s Bill has had up his sleeve for a few months now and finally hit the airwaves in June. Heard first Sun 3 June 1130-1300 on 6316 with a strong signal. Approx 15 and 100 watt tx's were used with the low power one supplying the station's signal for the first half. The 100 watt tx was impressive but then it probably would be! A night-time broadcast was carried out early Sun 24 June 0000-0215 on 6210 with Bill Lewis and a guest programme from Stuart King noted, a strong signal here and also clear from the 100 watt tx. Contact is via Green Park, Bath add and they have QSLs and some photos of tx and studio available. Format tends to lean towards rock especially on Bill's shows, very much like Orion's Mike Wilson. Stuart King was different, playing pop and talking a lot about Radio Caroline. Plans for the future include 15 MHz transmissions.

RADIO MI AMIGO were relayed onto shortwave so listeners further afield could hear their FM programmes to London on 104.3, this took place Sat 2 June on 6275 between 1500 -1800. The station has made around 25 consecutive broadcasts each week without any trouble. But they're set to take a break for a while as the people behind it are

expected to hold a meeting soon to sort out some new ideas as it's felt the station is'nt sounding as good as it could. So further SW relays might be held for the time being until they return from the probable break.

NORTHERN IRELAND SW RELAY SVE continued to broadcast into June on 6273, Suns 3 (1547BST), early Sun 17 (poor/fair) and early Sun 24 (good). No paid for relays have yet been noted and we wonder if they ever will!

RADIO ORION were heard each Sun in June as expected on 6299 with shows from Mike Wilson, Paul Johnson and Paul Fraser. Paul Johnson hosted another 70s special on 24 June and it looks as if this might become a regular programme. The "Big Bad O" has taken to being active outside the traditional times during the month with broadcasts on Sat lunchtime 23 June and, believe it or not, Wed 30 May and Thur 31 May during the early evening, these using 6290. Op Mike commented that he hoped to try and get going regular Wed evening transmissions. Further comments have been made about a visit to the Rednall box for the latest mail so expect a "Mailbag" show soon!

RADIO PAMELA INT'L made an appearance in the month on Sun 10 June on the usual frequency of 6224 with Steve Most and DJ Rob, the phone lines were opened and around a dozen calls were received for their trouble. Earlier in that week, a 15 mins short test was made Tue 5 June at 2000 in preparation for the Sun broadcast and a reception report was received for this! No medium wave column this month, so briefly: Pamela MW is losing favour to FM, the last 1609 broadcast being in mid-month on Sat 16 June during the evening.

RADIO STELLA INT'L were heard early Suns 10 and 17 June on 6320 with weak and poor strength resp. In addition to this, they were also on overnight Sun 3-Mon 4 June which included the tx op putting out a tape of WMJA (Magic 106) before the Stella programmes went out later on. Jock Wilson hosts these with "Stella DX" which gives listeners the chance to hear oldies and recent SW recordings.

RADIO TINA made another long transmission on Sun 17 June on 6210 with op DJ Rob and partner Steve Most, in fact Steve's programme was linked to the Tina rig using the FM tx of Pamela! Early morning seems to be the best time for this station to broadcast because despite the indoor antenna, mail has been received from the continent with reasonable signals. Site problems mean it's impossible for an outdoor antenna to be used.

TOTAL CONTROL RADIO were active Sun 24 June on 6242 between 0815-0945 with their format of soul/dance music, earlier in the month they carried out a broadcast on an early Fri morning. Steve Collins (op) expects to be back on the air sometime after the World Cup ends!

WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO were heard early Sun 3 June with what seemed to have been a broadcast although we tuned too late to find out before a QSO was held with DX20. It seems that Jack has been quite busy recently which probably explains his general absence from the airwaves.

WONDERFUL FREE RADIO LONDON made a two hour transmission on Sat 16 June 1000-1200 on 6275 with Andy Walker and as planned were on 15730 early Sun 24 June with tapes going out overnight 0100-0530, more 15 MHz tests are expected this coming weekend (30 June-1 July) from 0100. WFRL will return to Sun morn 29 July, probably on the usual 6275.

Con SUD WEST RADIO made their first night-time transmission beginning around 2240 on Sat 23 June on 6225, the signal was strong with an announced power of 100 watts. A heavy rock show was aired inc tracks by Judas Priest and Rainbow, presented by former RRG op Josef Licher or JL as he called himself. Greetings were made to other night-timers and he asked listeners to write letters of support to encourage more night-time broadcasts from the station. One of the reasons given for choosing to come on at night was the not so good conditions during daytime at this time during the year although we've been told that they should still be better.

RADIO NORTHLIGHT could be heard overnight Sun 3-Mon 4 June claiming "live" broadcasts and saying that they were testing through the night, only a poor signal was noted here on 6275 at 2328. A further night-time broadcast was carried out towards the end of the month. Northlight or Nordlicht are another station using 15 MHz (15040).

RADIO EUROPE from Italy were skipping into the UK on Sun 3 June on 7294 although the signal was very weak. The station seems to be a "rare catch" in the British Isles but can be heard fairly well on the continent.

RADIO ORANG UTAN were causing other stations to change channels Sun 3 June when they surfaced on 6206, a three hour broadcast was announced by the op and 0800-1100 seems to be the regular time slot the "monkey" keeps to. Mostly oldies again with a promise that the station would return to the airwaves in July. The station has again been active on medium wave during June as well.

RADIO TITANIC made a night-time appearance Sat 2 June, heard around 2315 on 6290 with pop music and English language programmes together with German IDs. A good signal was noted. The following weekend, they were relayed onto 7484 Sun 10 June by either PFBS or Atlantis.

QUALITY RADIO have again been active on unusual frequencies, on Sun 10 June they were on 9985. Other channels used at times are 15055 and 21850, the 13m band one has yet to be heard by us, nor have we received any reports of it's reception by anyone else. The station broadcasts two hours of pop music shows with DJs Paul Alexander and Steve King.

FRS HOLLAND are just getting back to their regular broadcasts following a break which goes back to last summer. They're still keeping the 3rd Sun schedule and can be heard on 7310 approx. In June all the new ideas and jingles finally came into use and a mostly good signal was noted here at 1110 although the station felt that generally conditions were against them this month. It's true to say that this time only a 30 watt tx was used where as in April the power was running at 120 watts. 1990 seems to be the year so far of 10th anniversarys as in Jan it Atlanta then just recently BRI and now coming up in August it will be the turn of FRSH to reach double figures. It's hoped that this special broadcast will go out on at least two different frequencies.

Caroline radio ship ready to repel all boarders

Cuttings supplied with thanks to Steve Most from probably local paper.

Spectrum has indeed started on 990 KHz but the signal isn't that good. Caroline is off 558 (28 June) today and the other "jammer" on 558 is still there.

ACTIVITY INFO
CUTTINGS SPECIAL

By HAL WILLIAMS
TV and Radio Editor

"SINISTER" moves by the Government could result in a raid on Radio Caroline's ship, the Ross Revenge, by British forces or even mercenaries.

An amendment to the Marine Offences Act went through the Commons as part of the Broadcasting Bill. If passed by the Lords, it means a ship of any nationality, even in international waters, can be boarded by force.

"The whole thing is very sinister," said Caroline station manager Peter "the Pirate" Moore.

Confrontation has been brewing for some time after the IBA (Independent Broadcasting Authority) allocated Caroline's illicitly-held 558 mhz wavelength to London station Spectrum.

The IBA announed today that this situation had been temporarily resolved — Spectrum has been given 990 mhz to use "until the DTI can resolve the problem of Radio Caroline's illicit broadcasts".

Broadcasts from the Ross Revenge, moored 16 miles off the Kent coast, had been blocking Spectrum's test transmissions in some parts of London.

Spectrum — which spent £750,000 on an advertising campaign which invited listeners to "find yourself on 558". — is to take the IBA to court because of the clash.

"Placing Spectrum on 558 was a deliberate move to spark confrontation," said Moore.

"Very quietly, the Government has changed the law on ships in international waters."

Court immunity

Under the new legislation, anyone authorised by the Secretary of State — including the Army, Navy, or even, theoretically, a band of mercenaries — can go into international waters, board any ship of any nationality, and bring it into port. They can use force to suppress any insurrection, and will have immunity in the courts from any act committed in securing the takeover.

Richards Butler, lawyers acting on behalf of the Caroline Movement, say "there must be some question whether it is necessary to extend the powers beyond police officers and customs officers ... which could mean anyone at all".

They go on to describe the measures as "draconian and unprecedented". A DTI spokesman said it was wrong to view the ammendment in isolation. Extending the powers beyond police and customs officers was to empower the DTI's own radio investigations units to accompany boarding forces, he said.

Asked whether immunity from prosecution meant armed forces could in theory shoot people during a raid, without any legal penalty, the spokesman went silent and said he would have to call back. At the time of going to press, he had not telephoned.

Caroline, boarded by Dutch authorities last August, will not take another invasion lying down, says Moore. "There's going to be a fight if they come near the ship. Something's going to happen," he promised.